



**Alberta  
Cattle  
Commission**

# GRASS ROUTES

*The Alberta cattle producer newsletter.*

## Inside

**2**

*Where Do You  
stand On The  
heck-Off?*

**3 - 6**

*AGM Policy  
Decisions  
1994 ACC Zone  
Delegate List*

**7**

*Environmental  
Stewardship  
Award  
BSE In Central  
Alberta*

**8**

*CA & CANFAX*

**Did you know?**  
The ACC recently won  
prestigious award  
from the Canadian  
Agri-marketing  
Association for its  
newsletter. Grass  
Routes overcame some  
tough national  
competition including  
the Canadian Wheat  
Board, Saskatchewan  
Wheat Pool and the  
University of Guelph  
to win the award.



## Producers set course for ACC

*Larry Sears reaffirmed as Alberta Cattle Commission Chairman*

Larry Sears of Stavely (outside right photo) and Ben Thorlakson of Carstairs were reaffirmed as Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) chairman and vice-chairman respectively at the nineteenth annual general meeting in Edmonton.

David Andrews of Brooks continues as past chairman and Fred van Ingen of Redwater rounds out the executive as the new finance chairman. Some of the major policy decisions were:

- Delegates agreed to hold special information and voting meetings for the check-off plebiscite (see story below).
- Delegates agreed that the provincial government examine the role and effectiveness of the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council and consider changing it from an appointed body to an elected council consisting of producer and

consumer representatives.

- Delegates increased funding for market development efforts.
- Delegates agreed to provide seedstock funding towards the study of Bluetongue to ensure there is no transmission of the virus from U.S. cattle entering Canada.
- Delegates agreed that the Surface Rights Act must not be reopened and that current levels of compensation are appropriate. As well, delegates resolved that access to grazing leases must be controlled by the lessee.

Other highlights of the AGM included Dewayne Good of Irvine being recognized as the winner of the 1993 Environmental Stewardship Award (see page 7). Minutes of the AGM are available from the ACC office in Calgary, 275-4400.

## Check-off plebiscite finalized

After months of negotiations, arrangements for a producer plebiscite on the Alberta Cattle Commission's non-refundable check-off are complete.

Regional information and voting meetings will take place throughout the province February 14 - 25. District agricultural offices will also serve as polling stations from February 28 - March 4.

The format of the plebiscite was changed from a costly mail-in ballot to less expensive information/voting meetings partly due to government cutbacks

suspending any direct funding or cost-sharing.

Cliff Downey, former Farmers' Advocate will serve as Chief Returning Officer. District agriculturists and other Alberta Agriculture staff will assist as Deputy Returning Officers.

Producers will be required to sign a declaration verifying the individual is a cattle producer and has not already voted when they cast their ballot at the information meetings or District Agricultural offices.

Look for further details in the February issue of Grass Routes.

**Strength from the ground up.**

# **ACC - the voice for cattle producers**

*The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) was established nearly 25 years ago by the industry in an effort to generate sufficient funds to build a strong,*

*national voice for beef cattle producers.*

*Promotion, public and government affairs issues and marketing challenges have since arisen and cattle producers have directed the ACC to take action. A few years after its inception, the ACC changed from a structure with appointed industry representatives to one that is directed by democratically elected cattle producers. In fact, at least 45 of the 90 delegates are elected annually for a two year term of office that cannot exceed six consecutive years. Delegates direct a full time staff of six to carry out ACC programs.*



## **Where do you stand on the check-off?**

The challenge facing beef cattle producers is how to effectively compete for our share of domestic and international consumers' dinner plates.

Look in the supermarket meat counter and you'll find our major competitors are chicken, pork, turkey and lamb. All are funded through a non-refundable check-off at a higher rate per pound than beef. For example, the service charge on hogs is \$1.25 per head and \$1.00 on a lamb, compared to \$1.50 on a steer. The meat counter may also contain American, Australian and New Zealand beef - all funded with non-refundable check-offs.

### **The check-off - proven results**

If the Alberta beef cattle industry has a refundable check-off will it be in a stronger position in the future than it is today? Industry programs funded through the check-off deliver benefits to all producers through lower costs of production, improved market opportunities or higher prices.

We are all aware there is a growing need to address the many issues that confront our industry and threaten to impact the consumption of beef. Many well-funded environment and animal rights groups have targeted our industry saying beef is bad for the environment, bad for human health, and that meat is murder. Our industry can't fight these issues without being able to buy the ammunition to do the job. If only some of the industry contributes, we will be less effective.

Similarly, with our growth as a major international trader, it has been important to be able to access funds to protect our industry from actions taken by other countries. We have defended the industry from subsidized European beef imports, responded to trade investigations by the U.S. government, and lobbied for restrictions on the import of manufacturing beef to protect access to the American market. Producers have saved over \$50 million a year in lost returns just from the countervail against highly subsidized European beef exports. That's \$350 million in additional returns since the countervail was introduced in 1986. If one considers Alberta's share of the national industry, Alberta

producers have recovered *FOUR* times more value from this one achievement than all the check-off paid during the 24 years the ACC has operated.

### **The check-off - a fair price**

In the meat industry worldwide, there are no examples of a voluntary check-off. American cattle producers support a mandatory non-refundable check-off fee equivalent to about \$1.30 Canadian and are examining the need to increase their funding. Australia's non-refundable check-off is \$3.60 Cdn per head marketed and New Zealand's is \$3.10 Cdn.

Some will say that B.C. has a refundable check-off system that could work here, but the B.C. Cattlemen's Association recently passed a resolution favoring a non-refundable check-off. Due in part to the impact of refunds (as high as a 13 per cent refund rate), their check-off is already \$2.00 per head and has been approved to rise to \$2.50 to cover their provincial and national commitments.

Ontario had a refundable check-off system, but found that their refund rate of 19 to 21 per cent for four consecutive years was reducing their effectiveness and producers there voted to change to a non-refundable check-off.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with refundable check-offs, have experienced difficulties in meeting their national commitments, and Saskatchewan is now moving towards a higher per head check-off.

If Alberta experienced similar refund rates to Ontario, it could take up to \$1 million from Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) program budgets. Where would we want to cut that amount of funding - beef promotion, market development, research, public relations, government lobbying? Or, should the check-off be increased to make up for those who request refunds?

The fairest system for all cattle producers is the current non-refundable check-off. Each producer pays in proportion to the benefits received from the ACC's programs. The benefits from the check-off are documented to be returned many times over through either better market access or higher prices - it's well worth supporting!

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were generated at 53 country meetings held throughout the province during late October and early November.

A resolutions committee comprised of Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) delegates representing each of the nine zones then prepared the resolutions for the ACC's annual meeting held at the beginning of December. Each resolution was presented at the annual meeting, where it was thor-

oughly debated and voted on by the 90 ACC delegates.

The carried resolutions are printed below. Limited space prevents us from printing the defeated and redundant resolutions. A complete list of resolutions is available from the ACC office. If you want further information about any one of the following resolutions, please contact your local ACC delegate (see list on pages 5-6).

## **EXECUTIVE**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC REVERT BACK TO A ONE YEAR WIPE-OUT CLAUSE FROM THE CURRENT TWO YEAR WIPEOUT CLAUSE."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC DECIDE WHAT CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE TO OUR PLAN."
3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF THE ACC DEVELOP AN EVALUATION PROCESS ON COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES."
4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC COMMUNICATE WITH THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE POSITION AND FUNCTION OF MARKETING COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO THE RECENT AND ANY FUTURE LITIGATION CASES IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID THE UNNECESSARY EXPENSES THE ACC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE COURT CASE AND RELATED ISSUES."
5. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC CONTINUE TO LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE THE APPOINTED MARKETING COUNCIL WITH AN ELECTED COUNCIL REPRESENTING VARIOUS PRIMARY PRODUCER GROUPS AND A CONSUMER GROUP REPRESENTATIVE."
6. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE MARKETING COUNCIL."
7. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT IF A PLEBISCITE VOTE IS TO BE HELD, THAT INFORMATION MEETINGS BE HELD AND THE VOTE BE CONDUCTED AT THESE MEETINGS AND ADDITIONAL POLLING STATIONS BE PROVIDED, EG. DA'S OFFICES AND THERE BE NO MAIL-IN BALLOTS."
8. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT A PROVINCE WIDE CAMPAIGN BE ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF THE

ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS TO HAPPEN PRIOR TO THE PRODUCER PLEBISCITE VOTE."

## **PRODUCER LIAISON**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC PROVIDE ONE SCHOLARSHIP OF \$500 TO BE AWARDED ANNUALLY AND ADMINISTERED BY THE 4-H SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE."

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC MONITOR THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AND/OR GROWTH OF THE TRAIL NET 125 SOCIETY."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC TAKE A MORE AGGRESSIVE APPROACH TOWARDS PEOPLE WHO SPREAD UNFOUNDED INFORMATION/PROPAGANDA ABOUT OUR INDUSTRY."
3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC MONITOR THE ACTIVITIES OF DUCKS UNLIMITED AND EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF THESE ACTIVITIES ON THE CATTLE INDUSTRY."
4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC WORK TO CORRECT PUBLIC MISINFORMATION OF THE SO-CALLED HAMBURGER DISEASE."
5. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAMS BE REMOVED FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION AND PLACED UNDER PUBLIC AFFAIRS."

## **MARKET DEVELOPMENT**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT IN ORDER FOR THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE TO BE EFFECTIVE IN DEVELOPING NEW MARKETS, THE BUDGET FOR THAT COMMITTEE BE INCREASED."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BUDGET FIGURE FOR THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BE INCREASED TO \$250,000."

3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BUDGET OF MARKET DEVELOPMENT BE INCREASED - THE MONEY TO COME FROM PRODUCER EQUITY AND THE INCREASED FUNDS GO TOWARDS THE CANADA BEEF EXPORT FEDERATION." TABLED

4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE INCREASE ITS BUDGET FOR BEEF EXPORT."

## **CANADIAN CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC ALLOCATE AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000 PER YEAR, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, TO THE CCA BUDGET TO PROVIDE SEEDSTOCK FUNDING FOR SEROLOGICAL STUDIES TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS NOT TRANSMISSION OF THE BLUETONGUE VIRUS FROM U.S. CATTLE ENTERING CANADA WITHOUT THE TEST DURING THE NON-VECTOR SEASON; AND THAT THE ACC PURSUE REIMBURSEMENT OF THIS EXPENSE FROM THE CCA."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC REQUEST THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE \$25,000 PER YEAR, FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, FROM THE HORNS CATTLE TRUST FUND TO PROVIDE SEEDSTOCK FUNDING FOR SEROLOGICAL STUDIES TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS NO TRANSMISSION OF THE BLUETONGUE VIRUS FROM U.S. CATTLE ENTERING CANADA WITHOUT THE TEST DURING THE NON-VECTOR SEASON."

## **TECHNICAL**

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA'S RANGELAND RESOURCES PROGRAM."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DONATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA RANGE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POST-GRADUATE ENDOWMENT FUND."

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS

3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LOOK INTO RESEARCH ON POCKET GOPHER CONTROL."
4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CONTINUE TO RESEARCH THE EFFECTS OF THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY IF THERE IS A NEED TO DO SO."
5. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NOT FUND EFFICACY TESTING OF COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS."

## PROMOTION

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC SPEND AS MUCH MONEY ON PROMOTION IN 1994/95 AS WAS SPENT 1992/93."  
TABLED
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC IN ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE ITS SURPLUS, TARGET ITS SURPLUS TOWARDS PROMOTION."
3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE POSITION OF BEEF EDUCATION ASSOCIATION COORDINATOR BE REDEFINED."
4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ALBERTA BIC DIRECTORS LOBBY THE BIC COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE TO REDUCE BIC ADMINISTRATION COST TO A TARGET OF 20 PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENSES."

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR ADEQUATE RIGHT TO FARM LEGISLATION FOR ALBERTA."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT BY THE FEDERAL OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO IMPLEMENT A REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE NTSP."
3. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FUND BE INVESTED AND THE INTEREST FROM THE PRINCIPLE BE UTILIZED FOR RESEARCH, MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELATED AREAS."
4. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE DELEGATES CONFIRM HE BOARD RESOLUTION OF NOVEMBER 18 - THAT IN VIEW OF THE COMMITMENTS MADE BY FEEDER ASSOCIATIONS, THE ACC INDICATE TO THE PROVINCIAL GOV-

ERNMENT THAT THEY SHOULD INCREASE INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATION LOAN LIMITS AND AT THE SAME TIME REDUCE THE GOVERNMENT PER CENT OF GUARANTEE FOR 1993/94."

5. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY THAT COMPENSATION FOR SURFACE RIGHTS NOT BE UNILATERALLY LOWERED."

6. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC URGE THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT NOT TO ALLOW THE SURFACE RIGHTS ACT TO BE REOPENED UNDER PRESSURE FROM CAPP (CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS)."

7. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC ENCOURAGE THE PROMOTION OF A FULL SERVICE PRIVATE SECTOR PACKING PLANT IN NORTHERN ALBERTA."

8. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO PURSUE A SOLUTION TO THE DISEASED HERD OF BUFFALO IN WOOD BUFFALO NATIONAL PARK."

9. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC OPPOSE EXPANSION OF EXISTING OR FORMATION OF NEW ECOLOGICAL RESERVES WITHOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS."

10. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL CROP AND PASTURE DAMAGE BY WILDLIFE AND THAT ADEQUATE COMPENSATION BE PAID TO THE LANDOWNER, OR LAND USER."

11. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT LIVESTOCK LOSSES CAUSED BY GRIZZLY BEARS AND OTHER PROTECTED SPECIES BE 100 PER CENT COMPENSATED."

12. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC REQUEST THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF TRESPASS ON LEASE LAND UNDER AGRICULTURAL DISPOSITION."

13. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT ACCESS TO GRAZING LEASES BE CONTROLLED BY THE LESSEE."

14. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT TIMBER HARVESTING GUIDELINES MUST BE CHANGED WHEN HARVESTING TIMBER IN GRAZING LEASES BECAUSE CATTLE CANNOT SAFELY GRAZE THESE AREAS

DUE TO THE DEBRIS LEFT BY THE LOGGERS."

15. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PENALTY FOR CATTLE THEFT BE COMPARABLE TO THE PENALTY ASSESSED FOR WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS."

16. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC SUPPORT THE PAY THE PRODUCER OPTION OF THE WGTA."

17. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT IF THE WGTA IS NOT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THE ALBERTA CROW BENEFIT OFFSET PROGRAM."

18. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY TO MAKE GOPHER POISON (STRYCHNINE) AVAILABLE TO CATTLE PRODUCERS AND FARMERS TO CONTROL GOPHER POPULATIONS."

19. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC LOBBY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AGAINST INITIATING MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT ON AGRICULTURAL LAND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ASSESSMENT FOR TAXATION SHOULD BE BASED ON PRODUCTIVITY."

20. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC EXPLORE METHODS BY WHICH WE COULD HAVE MORE THAN ONE LIVESTOCK INVESTIGATOR TO PATROL FOR CATTLE THEFTS."

## BUDGET

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ACC KEEP A CONTINGENCY FUND OR SURPLUS."
2. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE 1994/95 FISCAL YEAR BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED."

## MISCELLANEOUS

1. "BE IT RESOLVED THAT A PILOT PROJECT BE INSTITUTED WHERE THE LANDOWNER BE INTEGRAL IN ALLOCATING THE NUMBER OF BIG GAME AUTHORIZATIONS ON THAT LANDOWNER'S PROPERTY."

# ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

## Directors At Large:

**Gary Creelman** (zone 9)  
**Arno Doerksen** (zone 1)  
**Mabel Hamilton** (zone 5)  
**Larry Sears** (zone 2)  
**Ben Thorlakson** (zone 3)

## ZONE 1: Counties 2, 4, 8; M.D. 1, 14 and that area of Special Area No. 2 that lies south of the Red Deer River



<b>Director</b>	Arno Doerksen Larry Helland Lawrence Pfeifer Simon Schonhofer Robert Staples David Andrews Harry Hargrave Joan Hughson Murray Jorgensen Gerald Maser	Gem <b>Lomond</b> Medicine Hat Jenner Bindloss Brooks Walsh Foremost Bassano Manyberries	641-2498 <b>792-2150</b> 893-2407 379-2272 379-2500 362-2219 937-2228 867-2343 378-4093 868-2423
-----------------	---	---	---

## ZONE 2: Counties 5, 26; M.D.s 6, 9 26; I.D.s 4, 5, 6 and the Municipality of Crowsnest Pass



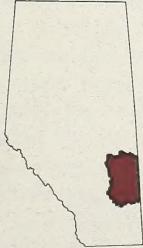
<b>Director</b>	Gary Brown Lance Carnine Keith Everts Kim Hanson Larry Sears Charlie Ewing David Keeler Ralph Salt Herman Stroeve Stan Wilson	Stavely <b>Lethbridge</b> Pincher Creek Cardston Stavely Claresholm Raymond Cardston Picture Butte Nanton	549-3787 <b>327-6672/9213</b> 627-4983 653-2487 549-2481 625-2157 752-4304 653-2215 738-4417 646-3184
-----------------	--	--	--

## ZONE 3: Counties 16, 17; M.D.s 8, 31, 44; I.D.s 8, 9



<b>Director</b>	Robert Carr David Foad Douglas Jones Hugh Kennedy <b>Jim Turner</b> Joseph Bews Larry Dayment Charles Groeneveld Stuart Morison Ben Thorlakson	Okotoks Carstairs Sundre Turner Valley <b>Cochrane</b> Longview Longview High River Airdrie Airdrie	938-7674/2333 337-2366 335-8979 933-5156 <b>932-5278</b> 558-2291 558-3912 938-7843 948-4343 948-5434
-----------------	---	--	--

## ZONE 4: Counties 18, 29; M.D.s 34, 52, 61; Special Areas 3, 4 and that area of Special Area 2 that lies north of the Red Deer River



<b>Director</b>	Tim Andrew Ron Bullick <b>Harold Carter</b> Darcy Lockhart Stratton Peake Ron Burgemeister Judy Fenton Arnold Guhle Lorne Maull Tim Smith	Youngstown Coronation <b>Kinsella</b> Youngstown Finnegan Hanna Irma Daysland Metiskow Coronation	779-2273 578-2192 <b>386-2205</b> 779-2408 566-2287 854-2298 754-2257 374-2275 857-3779 575-2246
-----------------	--	--	---

# ALBERTA CATTLE COMMISSION DELEGATES

## ZONE 5: Counties 6, 14, 23; M.D.s 7, 47, 48, 99

Director	Mabel Hamilton	Innisfail	224-2380
	Donald Herzog	Delia	364-2104
	Clinton Stankievech	Trochu	442-2113
	Wilbur Stewart	Big Valley	876-2784
	Dale Wilson	Rosedale	823-4856
	Des Carney	Three Hills	443-7369
	Don Curtice	Innisfail	227-2511
	<b>Margaret Jenson</b>	<b>Tees</b>	<b>788-2474</b>
	Clyde Lynn	Rocky Mtn Hse	729-2494
	Doug Price	Acme	546-2507



## ZONE 6: Counties 3, 9, 10, 20, 22, 25, 31; M.D. 77; I.D. 13

Director	Henry Elzinga	Sherwood Park	922-2956
	Elwyn Grattidge	Camrose	672-4564
	Greg Ruzicka	Viking	336-2224
	Leo Suchy	Holden	688-2141
	Dave Willows	Winfield	682-2335
	Randy Archibald	Rosalind	375-2378
	Grant Bailey	Camrose	672-6309
	<b>Arnold Hanson</b>	<b>Viking</b>	<b>336-2598</b>
	Marvin Molzan	Leduc	986-2417
	Jay Paulson	Sherwood Park	922-6596



## ZONE 7: Counties 7, 11, 12, 28; M.D.s 90, 92; I.D.s 12, 14, 15, and that area of I.D. 17 that lies east of range 9, west of the 5th meridian and south of township 85

Director	Andrew Kapicki	Gibbons	942-4249
	Barbara Kwasney	Athabasca	675-4632
	<b>Fred van Ingen</b>	<b>Redwater</b>	<b>942-2189</b>
	Fred vande Ligt	Jarvie	954-2199
	Charlie Westra	Gibbons	998-9083
	Mike Cook	Westlock	954-2663
	Joe Dobynski	Westlock	954-2165
	Dale Hilliard	Westlock	349-3094
	Lyle Keyes	Carrot Creek	795-2234
	Murray Kerik	Flatbush	681-2244



## ZONE 8: Counties 13, 19, 21, 24, 27, 30; M.D. 87; I.D.s 18, 24

Director	Don Good	Vermilion	853-2220
	Lloyd McLaughlin	Mannville	763-2196
	Gloria Oughton	Vilna	636-2455
	Frank Postill	Plamondon	798-2431
	Don Seltz	Vermilion	853-2484
	<b>Blake Cherry</b>	<b>Lloydminster</b>	<b>875-6404</b>
	Bill Creech	Lloydminster	875-8794
	Ray Murphy	Bonnyville	826-5477
	Karl Schneider	Mannville	763-2447
	Richard Smith	Kitscoty	846-2643



## ZONE 9: County 1; M.D.s 130, 133, 135, 136; I.D.s 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and that area of I.D. 17 that lies west of range 8, west of the 5th meridian and north of township 84

Director	Bob Balisky	Debolt	957-2247
	Gary Creelman	Fairview	835-4645
	Donald McCracken	Manning	836-3223
	John McNaught	Woking	774-2248
	Mel Toews	Beaverlodge	354-2787
	<b>Jim Feist</b>	<b>Cleardale</b>	<b>685-3911</b>
	Doug Gaboury	Sexsmith	568-2212
	Garry Gurtler	North Star	836-2125
	Cec Jardine	Valleyview	524-3507
	Vic Patrick	Eaglesham	359-2211





New technologies may improve grading

The Alberta Cattle Commission is funding research into objective methods of carcass grading that may lead to big benefits down the road. Video image analysis is an automated grading technique that uses video cameras and computers to more accurately determine carcass value. The system takes a picture of the ribeye which is then digitized by a computer. Fat cover, ribeye area, marbling, fat color and muscle color is determined. This information combined with carcass weight and age is used to grade the carcass. Video image analysis eliminates grading variability and could lead to an automated objective grading system. The system may also be a tool for achieving grading equivalency with the United States and other key international markets.

## Environmental stewardship award

Dewayne Good of the M Bar Ranch (outside left photo), southeast of Medicine Hat, was named the 1993 winner of the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA).

The ESA was created to publicly recognize individuals who are doing an excellent job of protecting and enhancing the environment.

Good was selected for his excellent stewardship of rangeland and riparian areas under semi-arid conditions. He utilizes a low-impact, low-intensity grazing system for rangeland which addresses the needs of livestock and wildlife through both wet and drought years.

Numerous new water developments spread the impact of cattle away from natural riparian areas across his entire ranch. As well, low stocking rates ensure adequate forage for wildlife on critical winter and summer ranges.

Good has worked with various groups committed to protecting the environment such as the Society for

Range Management, the public lands division of Alberta Agriculture, Ducks Unlimited and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

Good was selected from a strong field of candidates across the province. Representatives from conservation, agriculture, and government sectors formed the judging committee.

The committee examined the stewardship goals of each individual including accomplishments in range and riparian management, wildlife and soil conservation, as well as leadership activities in the community related to stewardship.

The ACC is now accepting nominations for the 1994 ESA. All cattle producers are encouraged to either enter or nominate another producer who qualifies. Deadline for nominations is June 1, 1994. The winner will be announced at the 1994 ACC annual general meeting in Calgary, December 6, 1994. Nomination forms are available from the ACC office at 275-4400.

## Lone case of BSE surfaces in central Alberta

The first ever case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in North America was recently confirmed in central Alberta. The infected purebred beef cow was imported from the U.K. in 1987.

BSE is a slowly progressing, fatal nervous disorder in adult cattle spread through infected animal protein feeds. There is no evidence BSE can be spread from animal to animal. The disease has been a serious problem in the U.K. since 1986. Canada placed a ban on all imported cattle from the U.K. in 1990.

The single case of BSE was confirmed after the cow was put down while exhibiting symptoms of the disease. The animal was one of a group of imported cattle under surveillance by Agriculture Canada since 1990. The imported herdmates of the infected cow have since been put down and tested for BSE - all have tested negative.

The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) consulted with Agriculture Canada to develop media materials and

establish industry response teams consisting of government and industry representatives to allay unfounded health concerns about the incident. Providing media with timely, factual and credible information and spokesmen led to balanced reporting of the incident.

Government and industry response was also coordinated to inform and reassure Canada's major beef trading partners. Agriculture Canada officially met with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and travelled to Japan to ensure no disruption in trade. The CCA contacted the U.S. National Cattlemen's Association resulting in positive support. Mexico initially closed beef trade but after high level consultations resumed full trade after only a few days. Currently, trade has only been disrupted with Taiwan.

In order to protect these trading relationships and the international health status of Canada's cattle herd, Agriculture Canada will destroy approximately 300 head across the country.



## Ottawa continues import tariffs

The federal government recently announced it will continue the 25 per cent tariff surtax on offshore boneless beef imports in excess of 72,021 tonnes in 1994. The tariff will mainly affect imports from Australia and New Zealand as U.S. imports are exempt under the free trade agreement. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) lobbied extensively for the tariff and is pleased to see it continued in 1994.

## New GATT agreement finalized

A new GATT deal is now a reality, and for Canadian beef producers the results are encouraging. Over the next six years, there will be a minimum reduction of 15 per cent for all products. Export subsidies will be reduced by 36 per cent in expenditures and 21 per cent in volume of product over the term of the agreement. The new agreement is expected to come into effect in 1995.

The GATT agreement is an important first step in solving trade differences and irritants around the world. It will most certainly lead to reductions in trade distorting programs and policies, and free up market access for agricultural products.

Changes to GATT will be gradually phased in, and as a result, the true effects won't be known for several years.

The CCA Director of Government Affairs, Jim Caldwell, attended the Geneva meetings as an industry resource for the Canadian negotiators.

## NAFTA opens continental market

Further development of trade between Mexico and Canada is assured through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). CCA President Ken Cameron and Foreign Trade Committee Chairman David Andrews met with the Mexican Ambassador the day after NAFTA was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

NAFTA will provide a new market for Canadian goods including beef. Under NAFTA, the current 15 to 25 per cent tariff on cattle and beef entering Mexico will be eliminated. This will give Canada a distinct advantage over offshore beef exporting countries. Over time, NAFTA will lead to significant economic growth in Mexico and create a larger North American market for high quality beef products.

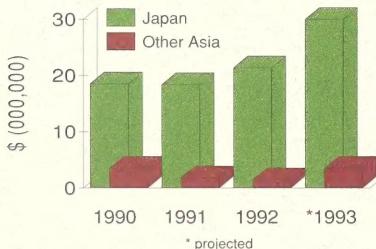
## Animal health

The CCA continues to work cooperatively with U.S. cattle producers on various animal health issues. Specifically, the CCA is working to eliminate Bluetongue testing on U.S. cattle during low risk seasons, based on current accepted science. As well, several U.S. states are beginning to relax their position on Brucellosis testing and vaccinations for Canadian cattle heading south to Brucellosis-free states.

**Market Watch by:**



### Canadian Beef Exports to Asia



Source: Agriculture Canada, Canada Beef

CANFAX is a non profit market information service that offers its members detailed weekly and monthly market reports and a member-only hotline to get up to the minute information. For more information call Anne or Keith at 275-5110.

### MONTHLY AVERAGES FOR ALBERTA

prices in (\$/cwt)	Dec. average	Nov. average	change	Dec. 92 average	change
FED STEERS	88.82	91.28	-2.46	89.54	-0.72
FED HEIFERS	88.72	90.16	-1.44	87.89	+0.83
FEEDER STEERS					
300 - 400 lbs	144.25	145.88	-1.63	125.29	+18.96
400 - 500	136.10	138.50	-2.40	120.99	+15.11
500 - 600	129.26	132.02	-2.76	113.35	+15.91
600 - 700	119.81	122.65	-2.84	106.61	+13.20
700 - 800	112.76	114.44	-1.68	102.29	+10.47
800 - 900	105.68	107.60	-1.92	97.31	+8.37
900 +	100.51	102.77	-2.26	92.34	+8.17
FEEDER HEIFERS					
300 - 400 lbs	131.56	132.71	-1.15	115.88	+15.68
400 - 500	127.14	128.46	-1.32	110.29	+16.85
500 - 600	121.50	120.90	+0.60	105.27	+16.23
600 - 700	115.11	116.96	-1.85	101.00	+14.11
700 - 800	106.95	107.62	-0.67	95.62	+11.33
800 +	99.99	101.60	-1.61	90.16	+9.83

### ACC Market Information Service

Slaughter Cattle Information      274-4340  
Feeder Cattle Information      274-4345

The Alberta Cattle Commission 216, 6715 - 8th St. N.E. Calgary, AB T2E 7H7 275-4400 Mail Registration Number 116432